

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
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BRUSSELS FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, GW, FR, UK
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: EUROPEAN CO-PRODUCTION OF AIRLINERS

1. EMBOFF FEBRUARY 15 DISCUSSED JOINT PRODUCTION OF
TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT WITH DR. SCHOMERUS OF FEDERAL
MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS. SCHOMERUS SAID THAT CHANCELLOR
SCHMIDT AND PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING HAD INCLUDED
THIS SUBJECT IN THEIR TALKS ON FEBRUARY 7 AND HAD AGREED
TO URGE THEIR RESPECTIVE INDUSTRIES TO HASTEN THEIR
STUDIES AND BE IN A POSITION SHORTLY TO MAKE A DECISION
ON WHETHER OR NOT TO GO AHEAD WITH THE AIRBUS B-10. THEY
ALSO AGREED TO CONSIDER SUPPORT BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS
OF A NARROW BODY AIRLINER AND TO ASK THEIR INDUSTRIES
TO ASCERTAIN WHAT KIND OF AIRCRAFT THE AIRLINES WANT.
THEY AGREED THAT JOINT PROJECTS SEEKING GOVERNMENT
SUBSIDIES MUST BE REALISTIC AND MUST BE MORE PRO-
FESSIONAL AND ECONOMICALLY SOUND THAN IN THE PAST.
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SCHOMERUS INDICATED THAT UNDER SUCH PRODDING THE
INDUSTRY WILL VERY SOON COME UP WITH A RECOMMENDATION
ON THE B-10.

2. SCHOMERUS AGREED THAT THE MAIN PROBLEM (OTHER THAN
THE LACK OF LAUNCH ORDERS) IN ARRANGING JOINT PROJECTS
WAS DECIDING ON THE TERMS OF BRITISH PARTICIPATION. HE

CONFIRMED THAT THE UK WAS ASKING FOR DESIGN LEADERSHIP AND FINAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PROPOSED STANDARD BODY AIRCRAFT AND THAT DISCUSSIONS ARE ON THE TERMS UNDER WHICH THE OTHER PARTNERS WOULD AGREE TO THIS. SCHOMERUS PROFESSED HIMSELF "RATHER CONFIDENT" THAT THE BRITISH WILL JOIN THE "EUROPE CLUB"; HE SAID THEY HAD MADE DECLARATIONS TO THAT EFFECT.

3. ALTHOUGH CURRENT PROPOSALS ALL CONCERN EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP, SCHOMERUS SAID THE FRG STILL STRONGLY FAVORS TRANS-ATLANTIC COOPERATION. HE REGRETS THAT NO AMERICAN MANUFACTURER HAS COME UP WITH A PROPOSAL THAT THE EUROPEANS COULD ACCEPT. HE REMARKED THAT THE EXCHANGES SO FAR WITH AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS HAD CONVINCED HIM OF ONE PRINCIPLE: THAT THE EUROPEANS MUST BE AS UNIFIED AS POSSIBLE WHEN DEALING WITH AMERICAN PRODUCERS.

4. COMMENT: EUROPEAN PROJECTS FOR CIVIL TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT APPEAR TO BE JUST WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS OR MORE - IN THE TALKING STAGE. THIS, OF COURSE, HAS BEEN LARGELY TRUE OF THE AMERICAN INDUSTRY'S NEW PROJECTS AS WELL. HOWEVER, WITH THE RECENT MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS GO-AHEAD ON THE DC-9-80 AND WHAT WE ARE TOLD BY A LOCAL BOEING REPRESENTATIVE IS AN IMMINENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF A BOEING GO-AHEAD ON THREE NEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AIRCRAFT, THE EUROPEAN INDUSTRY WOULD SEEM TO BE UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE TO MAKE ITS DECISIONS VERY SOON. MEEHAN

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